U.S. Application No.: 10/784,879

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that the aluminum plate is manufactured by a method including molten metal treatment and contains Cu of 0.032 to 0.040 wt%, rather than 0.020 to 0.040 wt%. These amendments are supported by the specification, for example, at page 106 and Al-13 in Table 1, as well at pages 64-65.

Claims 1 and 2 have also been amended to improve their form. These amendments are not to be deemed to narrow the scope of the claims.

Claims 15-21 have been amended to replace "the presensitized" with --the presensitized plate--, to be consistent with the base claims.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-21 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Form PTO/SB/08 A & B

The Examiner attaches to the Office Action a signed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of July 29, 2005. However, the Examiner did not initial in front of the documents under "Non Patent Literature Documents."

The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial in front of the documents under "Non Patent Literature Documents," on the Forms indicating that these references have been considered and made of record.

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II. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sawada et al. (JP 2000-037965) ("JP '965").

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are novel and patentable over JP '965 for at least the following reasons.

JP '965 discloses a lithographic printing plate substrate that is subjected to surface roughening treatment, such as electrochemical roughening, at the surface and contains 0.05-0.5 wt% Fe, 0.03 -0.15 wt% Si, 0.006-0.03 wt% Cu and 0.010-0.040 wt% Ti.

In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, the aluminum plate contains Fe of 0.20 to 0.29 wt%, Si of 0.03 to 0.15 wt%, Cu of 0.032 to 0.040 wt% and Ti of 0.050 wt% or less.

The substrate of JP '965 does not meet the requirements of the present claims, in terms of the amount of Cu contained thereof. In addition, JP '965 does not suggest using a substrate containing Cu in an amount of 0.032 to 0.040 wt%.

Moreover, the present invention improves the surface shape, the press life and the scum resistance by containing Fe and Cu in specific amounts and combining them with surface treatment conditions. In addition, the present invention can reduce the content of Fe inter-metallic compounds and improve the sensitivity of the lithographic printing plate to be exposed by using a laser light source.

JP '965 does not disclose the surface shape after being subjected to specific surface roughening treatment, let alone the above-mentioned effects of the present invention.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious over JP '965 and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated 2. by Nishio et al. (EP 853 132 A1) ("EP '132").

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are novel and patentable over JP '965 for at least the following reasons.

EP '132 discloses an aluminum alloy support for a planographic printing plate containing 0.005-0.040 wt% Na, not more than 0.25 wt% Si, not more than 0.40 wt% Fe, not more than 0.05 wt% Cu, not more than 0.05 wt% Mn, not more than 0.05 wt% Mg, not more than 0.05 wt% Zn, and not more than 0.03 wt% Ti (page 3, lines 7-12).

In contrast, the aluminum plate in the presently claimed invention is manufactured by a method including molten metal treatment and thus inherently does not contain the sodium element, as described in the Japanese textbook of aluminum materials "Fundamentals of Aluminum Materials and Industrial Technology". For the Examiner's consideration, Applicants attach herewith a copy of the relevant pages and the English translation of the marked portion thereof.

Accordingly, the substrate of EP '132 does not meet the requirements of the present claims, in terms of the amount of Na contained thereof. In addition, EP '132 does not suggest using a substrate not containing Na.

Moreover, the present invention improves the surface shape, the press life and the scum resistance by containing various metals in specific amounts and combining them with surface treatment conditions. In addition, the present invention can reduce the content of Fe inter-metallic compounds and improve the sensitivity of the lithographic printing plate to be exposed by using a laser light source.

EP '132 does not disclose the surface shape after being subjected to specific surface roughening treatment, let alone the above-mentioned effects of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious over EP '132 and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 51,283

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 10, 2006

Fang Liu



"Fundamentals of Aluminum Materials and Industrial
Technology" published by the Japan Light Metal Association,
1st edition, page 12, May 1, 1985

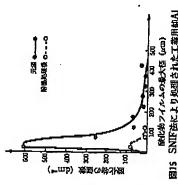
1.1.2 Molten metal treatment

Molten aluminum and molten aluminum alloys contain raw materials, hydrogen gas that is generated or incorporated therein in the melting process of the raw materials, inclusions such as oxides, and alkali metals such as sodium. These substances may be incorporated in malleable ingots or castings during the casting to deteriorate the ingot quality, and are also factors that may deteriorate various characteristics including the workability, mechanical properties and chemical properties of the resulting products, and moldability. Therefore, the molten metal treatment is carried out in order to remove the impurities as described below and achieve the molten metal quality with higher purity.

- Hydrogen gas;
- 2. Inclusions: mainly aluminum oxide and magnesium oxide, and further coarse particles in a grain refining agent (Al-Ti-B), products during the molten metal treatment (chlorides, fluorides, nitrides, carbides), and foreign matter derived from a furnace material;

3. Alkali metals and alkaline earth metals: elemental impurities such as sodium, lithium and calcium.

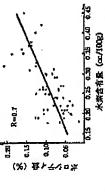
Coulter Counter 法を使って調べている。 図 14はALCOA469法によるAl-Mg合金容器中の 酸化物の除去効果がCoulter Counter法により 用耗AI溶場中の酸化物の除去効果が含心分組法 選定されたもので、図15はSNIF法による工業 により測定されたもので、いずれも大きなサ イズの駅内板(サイズドンドトは駅内板や抽 ており、両法の値をそのまま比較はできない。) 接観察された酸化物フィルムの最大径を示し 介在物除去効果についても遠心分離法および 数で抽出する Coulter Counter 法では酸化物 粒の球径を、遠心分離法では光学顕微鏡で直 が有効に除去されていることが分る。



解析は強心分離法によってなされたが SNIF法により処理された工業用却A 中の酸化物のサイズ分布(複数による 四35

(伊東北彦)

M16 (%) 物の存在ともかかわり合っている場合が多い。5. しているが、フクレの内面には介在物の存在 も認められ、発生原因がガスのみでなく, 異 ストリンガー(線状欠陥) もフクレと並んで 外観不良の代表的なもので, これは主として 介在物が原因で写真8K酸化物に起因するス トリンガーを示す。ストリンガーは材料中の 介在物が加工方向に伸ばされたもので, 陽極 酸化処理後の色ぬけや筋次陥などの原因とな



どがある。写真7 化圧延板のフクレを示す。フクレの原因は主に鋳塊中の水素ガスが影響

と韓別できるものまである。また,形状も単独で粒状のものと線状に連なっているものな

偽境の水焼合有量とポロシテイ型の関係33 2014合金。ガス分析:露珠ガスキャリヤ 一抽出法(NCF)。ボロシアイ:北萬法

する水素ガスのほかに酸化物などの介在物およびナトリウムなどのアルカリ金属が含まれ ている。これらの物質は好造の際,展伸用鏡塊や鋳物中に題入して鋳塊品質を損ねるだけ でなく,その加工性や製品の機械的性質,化学的性質および成形性などの諸性能を低下さ アルミニウムおよびアルミニウム合金溶器中には,原材料やその溶解過程で落生,强入 せる要因となる。したがって,次のような混入物質30,311 を除去し,より清浄度の高い溶 場品質を得る目的で容器処理を行なう。 1.1.2 海湖克湖

大球ガス Θ

介在物;主としてアルミニウムやマグネシウムの酸化物,そのほか結晶粒微細化 剂(Al-Ti-B)中の祖大粒子,容器処理中の生成物(塩化物,弗化物, 塞化物, 炭化物) お よび炉材などから組入する異物。 @

アルカリ金属、アルカリ土類金属;ナトリウムやリチウムおよびカルシウムなど の不枯物元禄。(注)

a) 溶温品質が材料特性に及ぼす影響

1) 錄塊品質

ロシティー量は合金組成および凝固速度にも影響される331。 偽塊中のボロシティー分布は ガス登との関係が強く,図1631 に示すように,ポロシティー量とほぼ比例関係にある。 ポ 通常跨塊の厚さ方向に一定の傾向があり,DASの分布にほぼ対応し中心部が多い傾向にあ 鋳塊品質として最も懸念されるものはポロシティーである。ポロシティーの生成は水菜

ii) 表面品質

アルミニウム材料に発生するフクレは大きさが5mm程度のものから,目視頻線でやっ

(注) 蛛物、 限仲材の合金の程類によってはこれらの元素を有効成分として添加する場合もある。

. 21 1



(b) 数状フクレ (x1.5) 写真7 1050合金圧延板にみられるフクレ外線の例 (a) 総状フクレ (x1.5)



写真 8 5062合金圧延抜のMgO小在物原因ストリンガーの倒

];

中的

] g

田野七百一

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「アルミニウム材料の基礎と工業技術」編集委員・執筆者名簿

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3	點面大學工學部數段 京都大学名譽教授	4章1節, 2節 9章1節, 2節
擅	433	3章1節, 2節
	カイアルドー	1章1節2項, 8章1篇, 3節, 6節3項
	東部アルミニウム路岸光形	銀6景8
三	オンマミニ	6學3第,4卷,5第
英田	カイルニックマ	1章1節1項, 8章4節, 7節2項
植林	教アルドニウム館技術研究	2年1節, 2時, 3節
異	神戸数個形	5年2節,3節
- NE	阿アルミニウム工業院技術研究	7章4節
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